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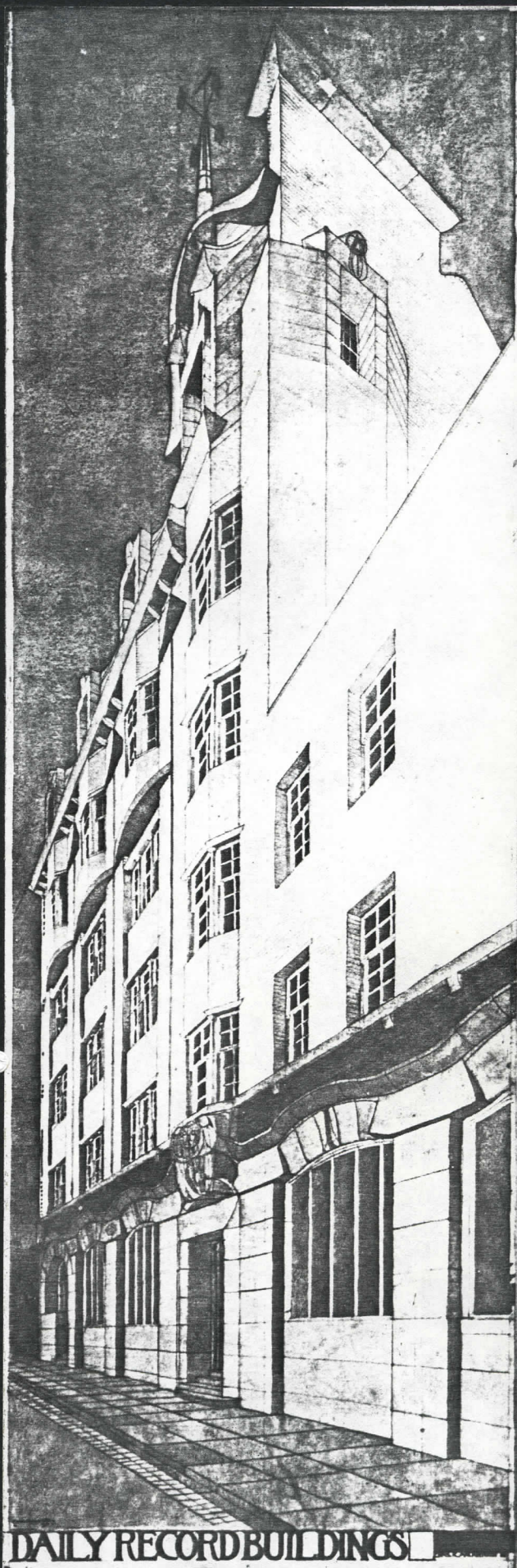
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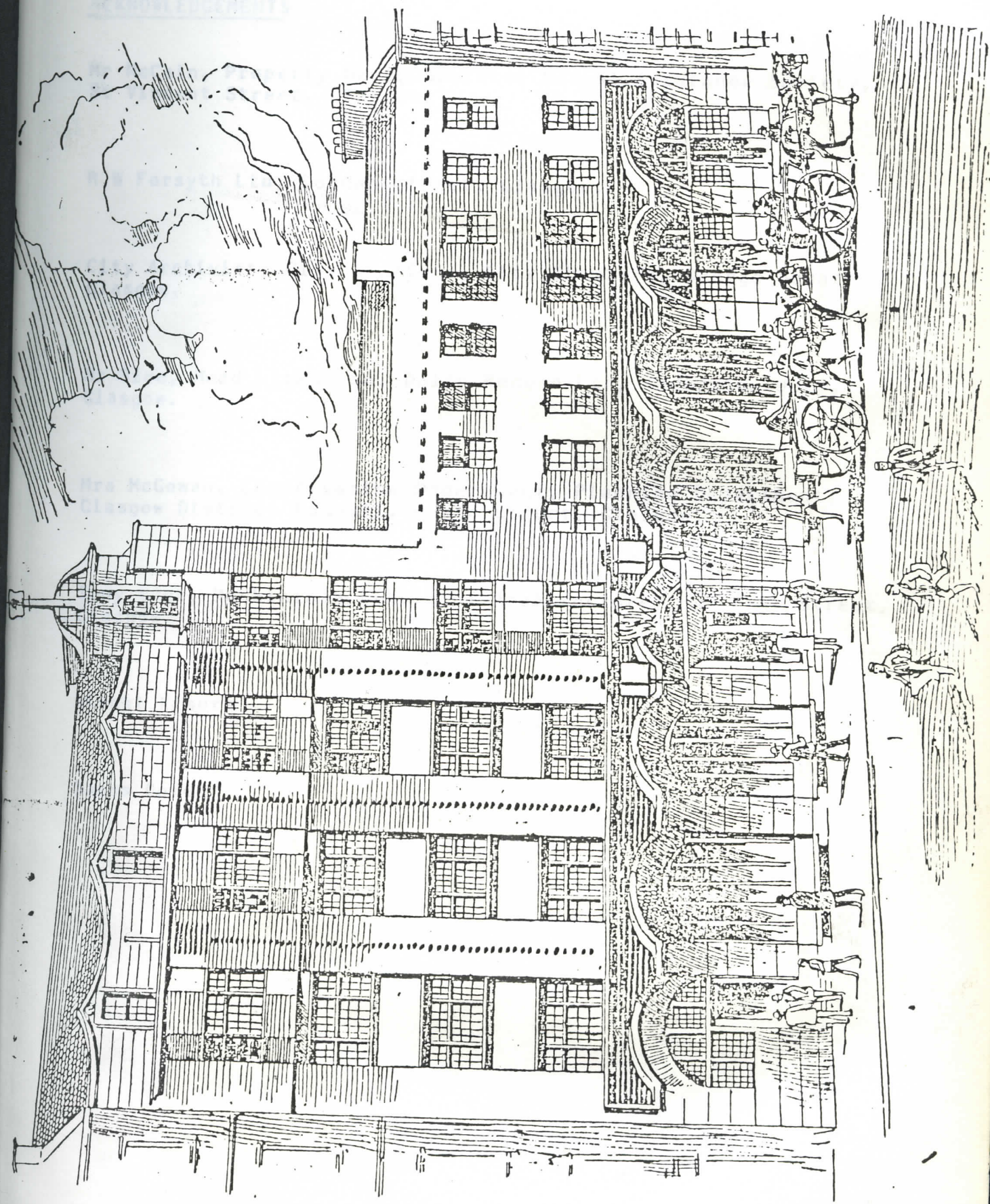
DAILY RECORD BUILDING
GLASGOW

J. CRAWFORD
AND
S. DRUMMOND

Daily Record Building,
Glasgow.



A Report by J. Crawford
and S. Drummond.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mr McCain, Property Dept, Scottish Mutual Assurance Society,
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Glasgow District Council, Queen Street, Glasgow.

Tony Vogt, Mackintosh School of Architecture, Renfrew Street,
Glasgow.

Hiroki Kimura

James Opfer

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure

- 1 Original Mackintosh perspective of Daily Record Building, 1901. This drawing appears to be only surviving coloured perspective by Mackintosh.
- 2 Drawing of Daily Record Building which was published in the Daily Record on May 27 1901 under the headline, 'The new buildings of the Daily Record'.
- 3 1 : 1250 Plan of Ordnance survey map illustrating position of Daily Record Building.
- 4 Reduction of the original Mackintosh drawing illustrating the floor plans of the lower four storeys of Daily Record Building.
- 5.5 Reduction of the original Mackintosh drawing illustrating floor plans of upper four storeys of Daily Record Building.
- 6 Reduction of the original Mackintosh drawing illustrating longitudinal and transverse sections of Daily Record Building.
- 7 Reduction of the original Mackintosh drawing illustrating Renfield Lane and gable elevations of Daily Record Building.
- 8 Reduction of original Mackintosh drawing illustrating St Vincent Lane elevation of Daily Record Building.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Daily Record Building is not very well known or often recognised as one of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's designs. This is due, perhaps, to its location and general appearance. It is also often confused with his slightly earlier and better known work of the Glasgow Herald Building in Mitchell Street which was built in 1895.

Therefore it was suggested that a closer investigation of the building and its history might indicate to us a possible "special subject" for the diploma course. Investigations at the City Archives revealed that only some of the original drawings remained. These drawings were the site plans and detail sections, there were no plans, sections or elevations of the building in the City Archives. It was due to this lack of scale drawings that it was proposed to undertake a measured drawing study so that a set of record drawings would exist.

At the same time as we were surveying the Daily Record Building, Hiroki Kimura, a student at the Mackintosh School of Architecture, was attempting to discover and record as many of Mackintosh's original drawings as possible. In the course of his studies he discovered a set of photographs of the original drawings of the Daily Record Building in the offices of Watson, Salmond and Gray, Architects, Glasgow.

Having been informed of this discovery we visited James Opfer at that time employed by Watson Salmond and Gray and were able to photocopy the photographs (Figures 4,5, 6,7,8). At this time we were led to believe that the

2.
drawings themselves were in the possession of Watson Salmond & Gray. A fact which we have been unable to confirm.

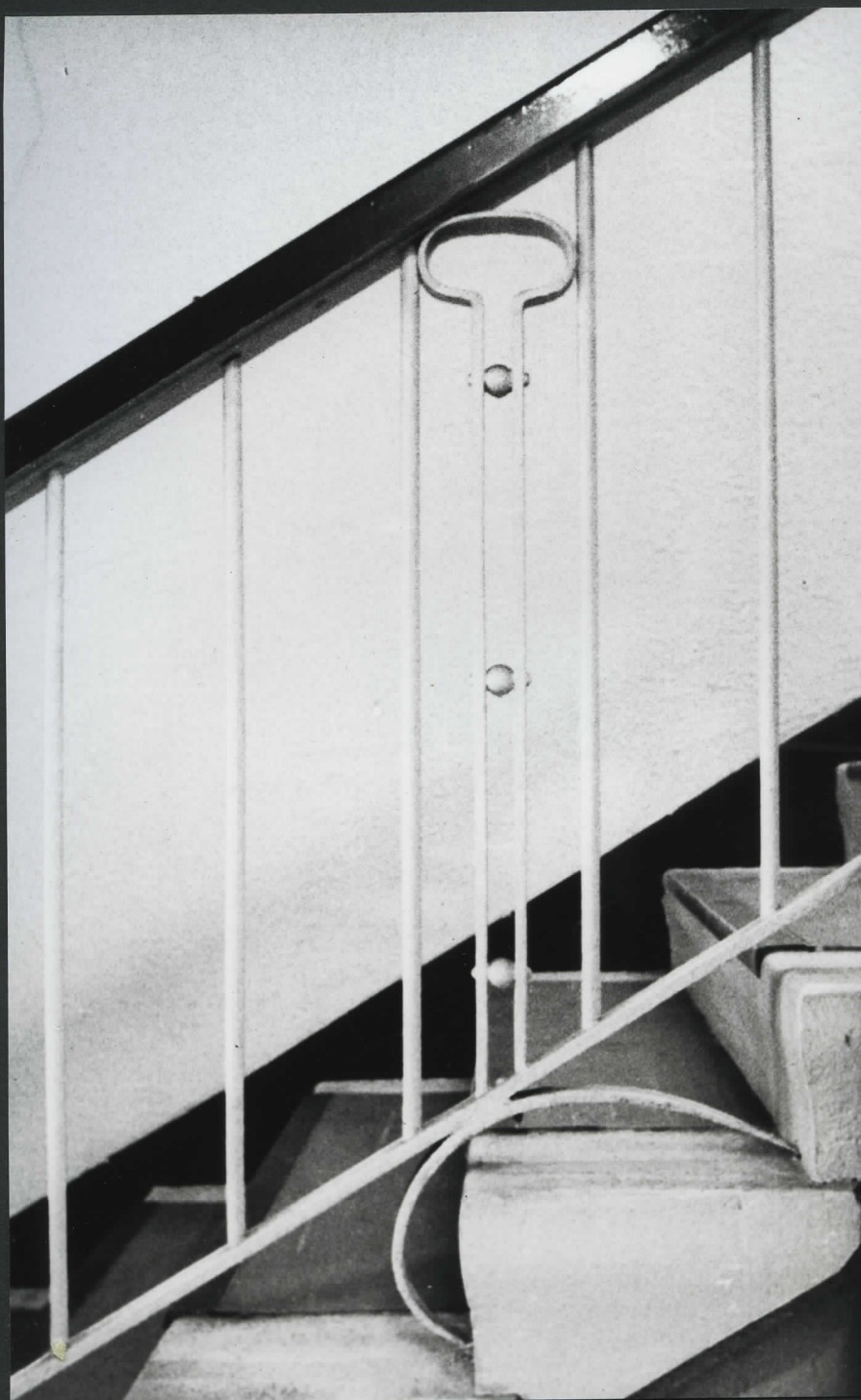
On close inspection of the drawings, several discrepancies between the building as it exists and the building as proposed by the drawings were revealed. Consequently it was decided to continue with the measured drawing study in order to have a complete and correct record of the Daily Record Building as it was built in 1901.



1. St. Vincent Lane elevation looking east.



2. Detail of tower bay window at roof level.



3. Detail of original main stair balustrade.

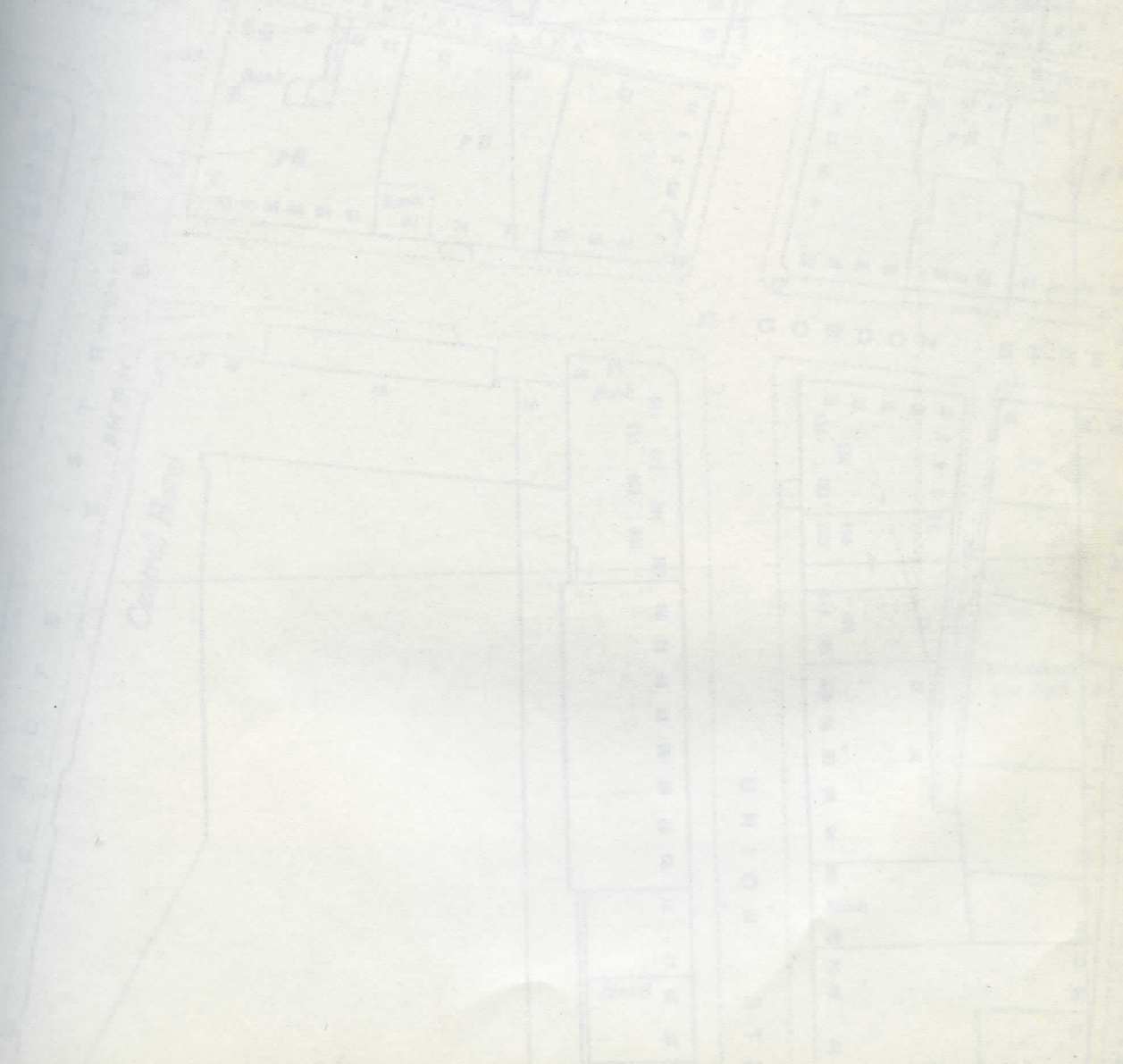


4. Internal view of fifth floor dormer.

2. SITUATION OF DAILY RECORD BUILDING

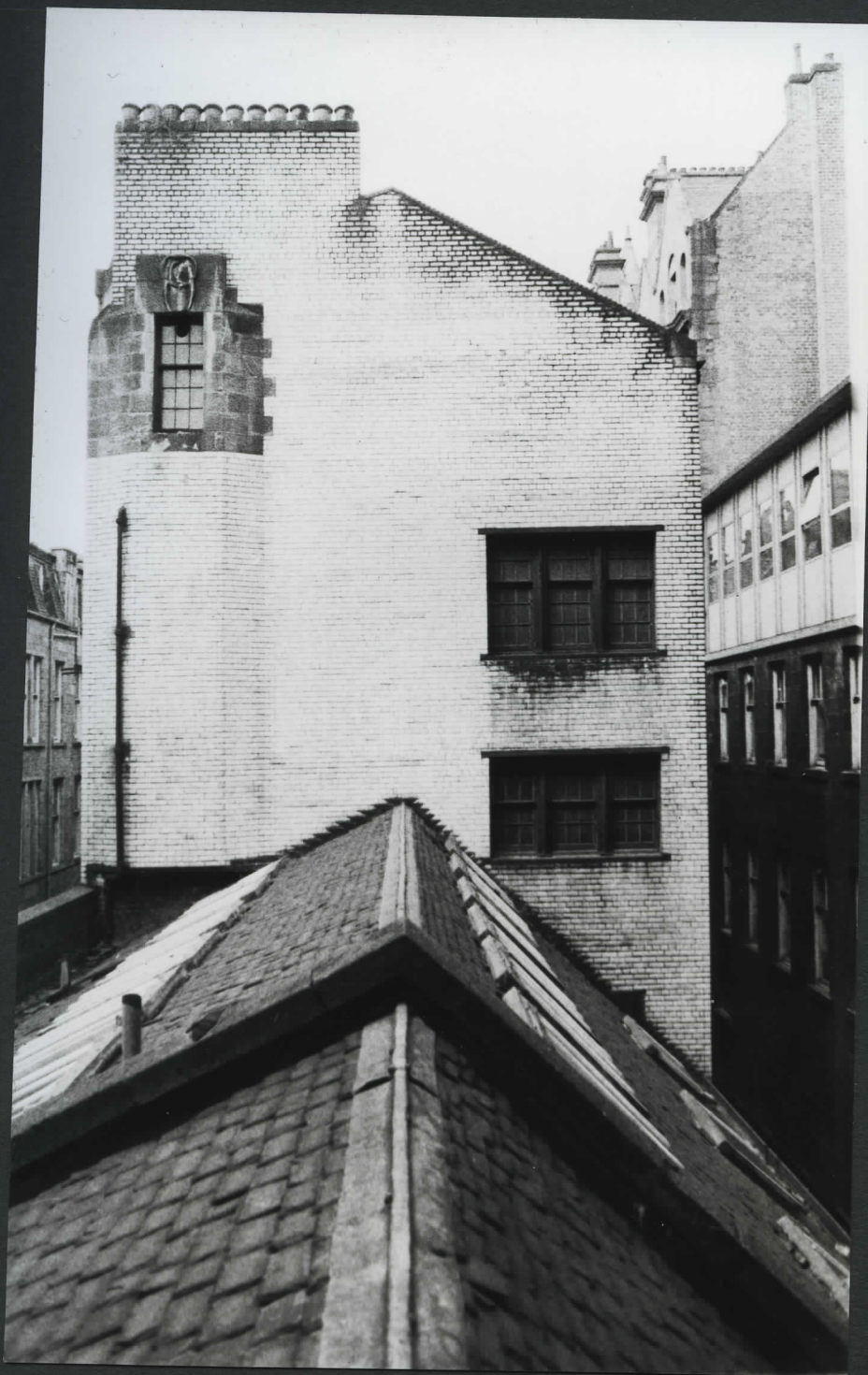
The Daily Record building is situated in a block in the very heart of the city centre of Glasgow. The block is bounded by St Vincent Street to the north, Gordon Street to the south, Hope Street to the west and Renfield Street to the east. Through this block from Hope Street to Renfield Street run two parallel lanes, St Vincent Lane to the north and Renfield Lane to the south.

In the centre site sandwiched between these two lanes is to be found the Daily Record Building with the Abbey National Building Society building to the west facing Hope Street and the recently burnt out shell of the Classic cinema complex which is currently being re-constructed to the east and facing onto Renfield Street.





5. Renfield Lane elevation looking east.



6. Gable elevation showing tower chimney and
dormer.



7. View of tower from Renfield Lane.



8. Internal view of fifth floor.

3. HISTORY OF THE DAILY RECORD BUILDING

The Daily Record Building was designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh while he was employed by John Honeyman and Keppie, Architects, at the turn of the century.

A building warrant decree was granted by Glasgow Dean of Guild Court on May 17 1900 and the building was occupied by the Daily Record Limited on May 27 1901 though at that time only the basement, ground, first and second floors had been constructed. The remaining three storeys were finished off and the building reported complete to the Dean of Guild Court on March 8 1906⁽¹⁾. The building was constructed to provide new premises for the Daily Record newspaper which were capable of housing all the plant and employees under one roof. Previously, printing of the Daily Record had had to be conducted from two addresses, one of which was in North Frederick Street where the original 'Echo', which was taken over in 1895 and gave rise to the Daily Record, was situated.

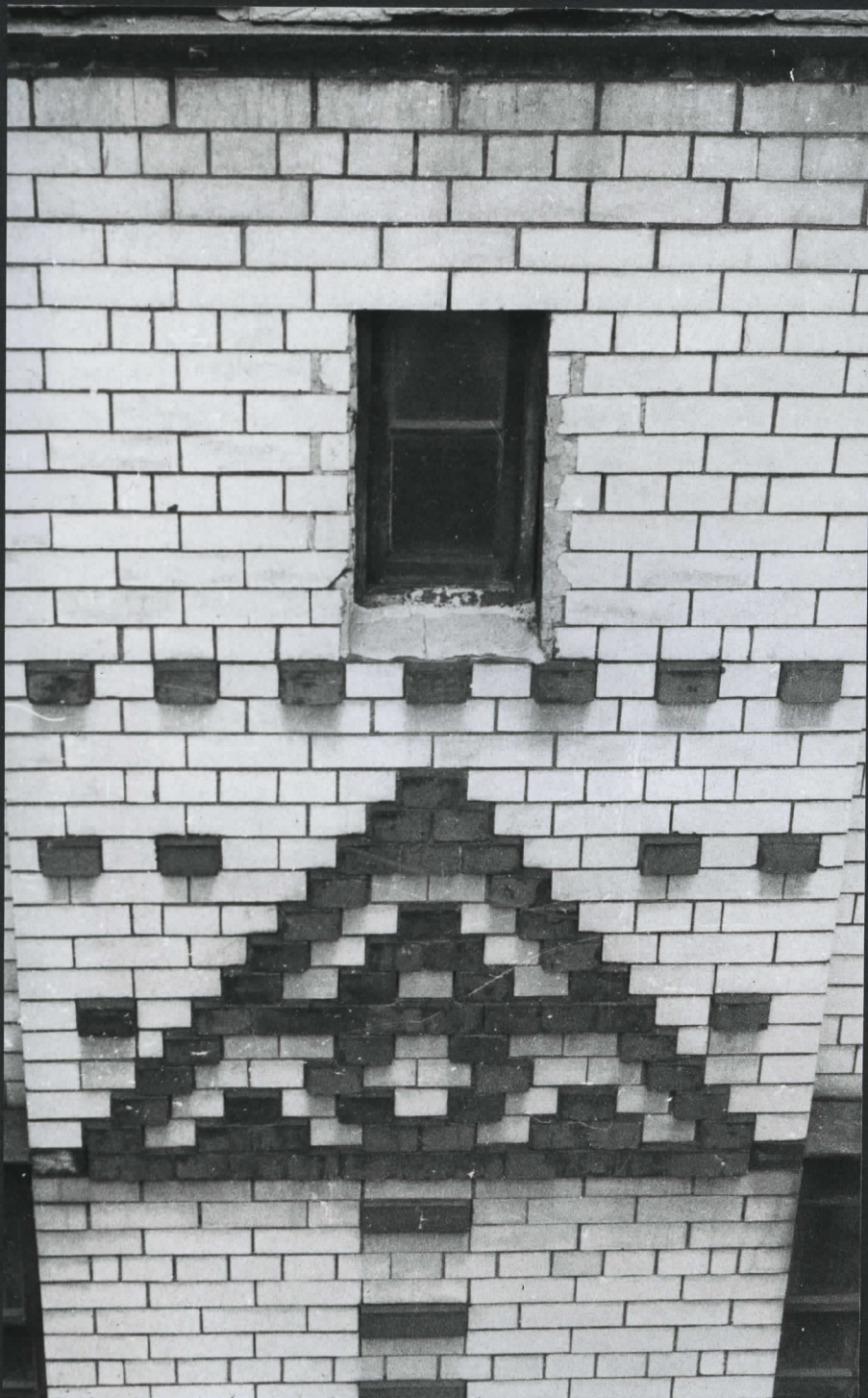
The Daily Record Limited remained in Renfield Lane until 1927 at which time due to the growth of the paper the plant became incapable of producing the required number of copies and staff accommodation was cramped. Whereupon the Daily Record moved to new premises in Hope Street.

The building was sold to the family run departmental store of R W Forsyth Limited whose Gordon Street store

backed onto the south side of Renfield Lane. Forsyth's put the building to a variety of uses from storage of display material and the individual shoe lasts of their customers, to housing the workshops required to provide their tailor service, kilt and sporran manufacture and a variety of other activities.

It was at the time of the sale of the building to R W Forsyth Limited that the extensive alterations described in Chapter Four appear to have occurred. It is not possible to specify exactly when they occurred for there is no record in the city archives of an application for a building warrant having been made.

In 1981 the Daily Record building was again sold this time to the Scottish Mutual Assurance Society who propose to use it as a storage building, except for the ground floor which will continue to be used as a garage for their more senior executives. Sometime prior to 1965 the Daily Record Building was granted the rights of a category B listed building, and on 17 July, 1975 this was upgraded to a category A listed building⁽²⁾, probably as a result of the architect's popularity at the present time.



9. Detail of tree motif on St. Vincent Lane
elevation.



10. Detail of arched window at ground floor
on Renfield Lane elevation.



11. Detail of Mackintosh's design over tower
bay window.



12. Tower bay
window at 5th
floor.

4. ANALYSIS OF DAILY RECORD BUILDING

The Daily Record Building is sandwiched between two narrow lanes and can only be seen from an acute angle (photographs Nos 1 & 5). The first thing that strikes the viewer is the three storey difference between East and West halves of the building.

The reasons for this difference are perhaps twofold. Firstly, all the accommodation required by the Daily Record Limited was adequately housed in the first four storeys basement, ground, first and second floors. Thus it was not necessary for the subsequent floors which were to be used as warehousing to run the full length of the building. Mackintosh realising that a gable would be visible from the lane deliberately emphasised this fact with a characteristic tower created by a chimney, a dormer and a bay window (photographs Nos 2, 6 & 12).

The high building also has more emphasis on ornamentation and embellishment whereas the low building is played down, except for the eight segmentally arched openings of grey sandstone which run the full length of the building at the ground floor. These arched openings are skilfully modelled and rhythmically connected to each other (photograph No 10).

Above the grey sandstone of the ground floor Mackintosh uses glazed brick which at the fourth floor he models into a series of boldly projecting bay windows. He uses the same device of a projecting bay window above the main entrance at ground floor level but maintains it throughout

each floor to attic level at which point it has been adopted as a constituent element of the tower at the junction of the front elevation and gable (photograph No 7). The attic storey he constructs from the same grey sandstone as used at ground floor but here he uses a simple dormer design, of a type similar to a seventeenth century Scots pattern, with a bold corbelled cornice, above the wide cantilevered bay windows⁽³⁾ (photograph 16). Over the windows one of his characteristic seed designs is carved into the stonework.

This frontage is of a type which was becoming popular in Glasgow lane elevations, large glazed areas slightly set back between unbroken brick piers⁽⁴⁾. The windows of the Daily Record Building are of a proportion found in Chicago⁽⁵⁾ at that time but are intriguingly a centre pivot design rather than the more normal sash and case (photographs Nos 4 & 14). On the Daily Record Building elevation there is the same strong sense of upward surging vitality often found in other works of Mackintosh notably the West elevation of the Glasgow School of Art. Here, however, this is emphasised by treatment of the unbroken brick piers. Between the glazed areas the hard white surface is textured by projecting occasional green coloured bricks in a simple ladder like design which climbs up the wall face eventually branching out into a geometrical design at fourth floor level. This would appear to be yet another of Mackintosh's interpretations of his tree motif⁽⁶⁾ (photographs Nos 9 & 15).

The Daily Record Building is an example of a successfully treated lane fascade which no doubt Mackintosh would have explored further had the opportunity arisen. It is also the only building in which Mackintosh used bricks, white glazed at that, as a facing material except for one or two minor commissions executed in England some twenty years later.





14. Internal
view of St.
Vincent Lane
and gable win-
dows at 4th
floor.



15. Detail of
tree motif on
Renfield Lane
elevation.



16. View of
roof on high
building be-
hind dormers
on Renfield
Lane elevation

5. ALTERATIONS TO THE DAILY RECORD BUILDING

Since the days of the Daily Record the building has been extensively and quite brutally altered. The original main stair in the extreme western bay of the building is now the adjoining property's main method of vertical circulation they have also installed a small lift/hoist which rises from ground floor to fifth floor in the stairwell.

Consequently the building consists of only seven structural bays, internally, since all the original openings between the main stair and the rest of the building have been carefully bricked up using white glazed bricks and brickwork courses to match the original wall. The new main stair is located at the opposite end from the original entrance in the eastern bay, with the loss of what must have been an impressive editor's room on the second floor. Because this stair only rises through four storeys basement, ground, first and second floors and due to the requirements of the fire regulations it was necessary to install a second stair which not only acts as an escape stair from the first four storeys but also continues up through the top three storeys. This stair is located in the bay adjacent to the original main stair immediately behind the Renfield Lane elevation.

Again due to the fire regulations it was necessary to install an escape stair from the third, fourth and fifth floors so yet another stair was installed rising from the second floor to fifth floor and was located in the

bay immediately behind the gable and south elevation inside the tower that Mackintosh had created on that corner by combining the chimney stack, dormer and bay window. The consequence of the installation of these three stairs is that the original internal spaces are impossible to visualize since all the stairs are enclosed and occupy a large percentage of the overall floor area and volume (photograph Nos 8 & 13).

Another internal alteration occurs in the basement where the machinery pits have been filled in and concreted over and a complete new mezzanine floor installed between the line of brick piers to the north and south and extends for five structural bays from the eastern end.

Alterations to the Renfield Lane elevation include the removal of the doors and steps which formed the entrance to the counting house, the cutting away of stonework from the arched opening in the extreme eastern bay to gain access to the new main stair and in August 1981 the removal of the cast iron gutters, pavement and structural members which supported them and allowed the basement to extend under the lane and replacing them with large 300 mm square concrete beams. Other small alterations include the removal and replacement of rainwater down pipes in different positions.

On the St. Vincent Lane elevation the alterations have been equally as brutal. The original doors in the extreme eastern bay have been removed and the opening filled in with new stonework. Perhaps the worst alteration has been the removal of the four identical windows and surrounding stonework at the ground floor level and creating two large openings in the wall to allow the ground floor to be used as a garage.

APPENDIX

This is an extract taken from the city edition of the Daily Record dated Monday May 27 1901 and headlined:-

"THE NEW BUILDINGS OF THE 'DAILY RECORD'"

"Today all departments of the 'Daily Record' are housed in the new building, in which during the past week this paper has been produced. The situation of the building, in the very heart of the city, leaves nothing to be desired. To the north is St Vincent Lane, to the south Renfield Lane, to the west the Scottish Temperance League buildings, and to the east the block of buildings facing Renfield Street. Renfield Lane in which is the main entrance to the 'Daily Record' building is 20 ft in breadth and had hitherto been regarded as of semi-private character, but the opening of the new building will change this and make it a thoroughfare from Renfield Street to Hope Street. The length of the building is 113 ft and the breadth from lane to lane 31 ft. The portion now occupied consists of four complete floors, the full size of the site, which is freehold ground, purchased from the Scottish Temperance Life Assurance Co, St Vincent Street. In the basement are the printing and stereotyping departments and the paper store. The printing machines which have been erected by Messrs Hoe, London and Messrs Foster, Preston and London, are of the two decker class for which these firms are famous, and speedy production being essential, sufficient machine power to produce 75,000 eight page papers per hour has been installed. The stereotyping department is also equipped with the most

recent time and labour saving appliances. On the ground floor are the commercial and despatch departments with numerous private rooms; on the first floor the linotype and caseroom, and on the second the rooms of the editorial and literary staffs of the 'Daily Record' and 'Weekly Record'. From a newspaper point of view the arrangement of the composing flat is an ideal one. The Linotype machines are placed against the north wall in one row of over 90 ft with electric motors at both ends. On the south side are the reading department, hand cases, advertisement bulks etc. The centre of the room is occupied by tables for receiving the work of the linotype operators and compositors; while the overseer from an elevated desk commands a view of the entire staff, and by means of lifts is placed in direct and speedy communication with both the editorial and commercial departments. Hygienic considerations, which have been kept in view in the construction of all the working rooms, have never had fuller play than in the equipment of the composing department. The staircase situated at the west end of the building, is lined throughout with white tiles, and a subsidiary staircase gives access from the ground floor to the machinery department in the basement. All the floors are absolutely fireproof.

The public office, which is a handsome and well lighted apartment, provides accommodation for 20 clerks, with ample space for the public counter. The whole of the furnishings in the office have been specifically designed, and are in harmony with the general scheme of the building. Visitors to the new offices will observe in the elevation to Renfield Lane a striking

departure from the ordinary traditions of Glasgow offices. While the lower storey is of massive stonework, a very considerable use of white glazed brick has been made in the upper storeys. The lintels and sills of the windows are of iron, and as this is painted white to harmonise with the colour of the brickwork, the effect of the facade is broad and dignified. A brightness is given to the exterior of the building by a judicious use of coloured bricks.

At present only the basement and the three upper storeys are completed, but when the whole is finished the effect will be at once simple and striking, and the novel use of material will make the office distinctive and unique. As regards completeness of internal arrangements, the 'Daily Record' new premises will rank second to none in the country.

The buildings are lighted and the plant is driven by electricity taken from the Corporation's mains in Renfield Street and Hope Street, the two sources making practically impossible a complete breakdown in either the lighting or the motive power. Mr John Gordon of Cathedral Street, Glasgow and Hamilton Street, Greenock secured the contract for this important section of the work and he has admirably carried it out.

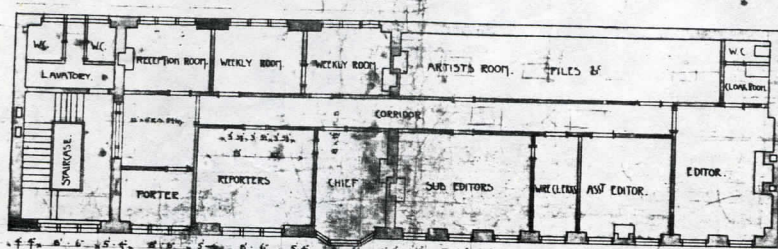
The main switchboard, one for the power system, which is supplied at 500 volts and the other for the lighting at 250 volts, are placed in the basement, and each is fitted with massive changeover switches. Both main switchboards are so arranged that in the case of the supply of current from either the Renfield Street or the Hope Street cables failing, the

full current could still be maintained from the main which continued working. In ordinary circumstances, however, during working hours half the power is taken from each source of supply. The power installation in the machine-room consists of four motors, capable of developing considerably over 100 horse power. One large motor drives the main shafting, giving power to three web printing machines, with a duplicate kept as stand-by. The other two are for driving the auxiliary machinery including the contents bill machine and a hoist to the despatch department. In the stereotyping room the power for driving the shafting consists of a 10 horse power motor. The linotype room contains two motors capable of developing $7\frac{1}{2}$ horse power each. One runs continuously and the other is kept for emergencies. The latter is capable of being put into gear at a moments notice.

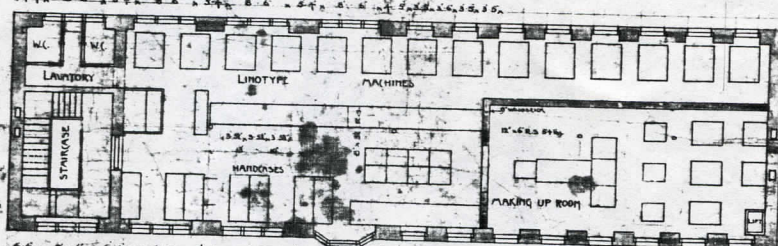
The lighting is carried out on the same principle of change from one street main to the other and it is run throughout on a distribution system. The submains for each department are carried from the main distribution board in the basement to a sub-distribution board and thence distributed to the lights. The installation consists of 400 16 candle-power incandescent lamps, although provision has been made for doubling that number if necessary.

The mechanical departments in the new buildings will, at an early date, be open for public inspection."

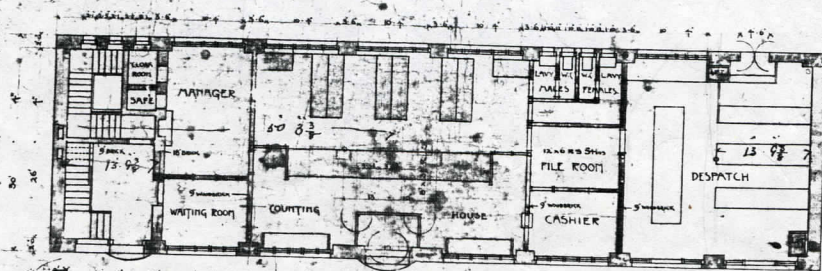
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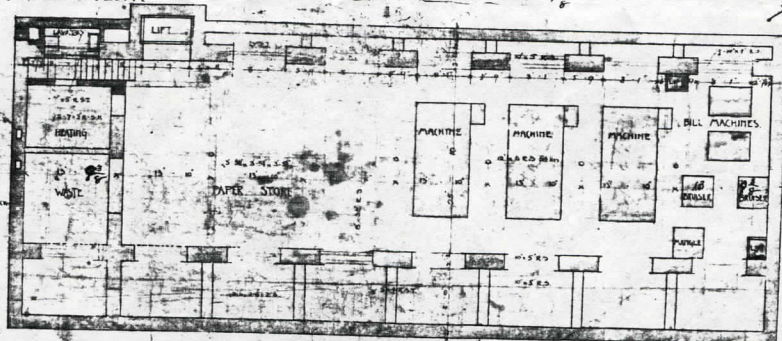
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FIRST FLOOR



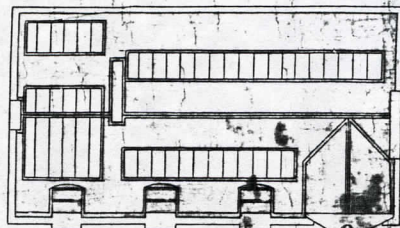
GROUND FLOOR



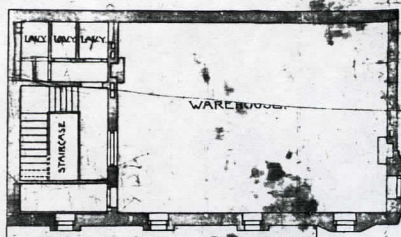
BASEMENT

Reduction of the original Mackintosh drawing illustrating the floor plans of the lower four storeys of Daily Record Building.

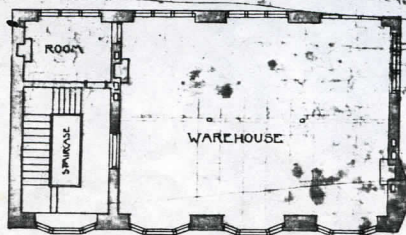
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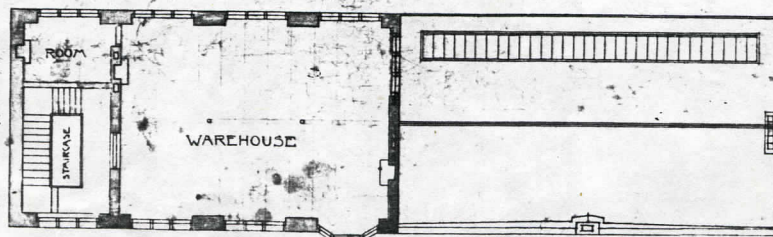
ROOF PLAN



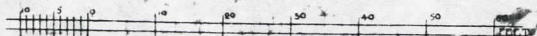
FIFTH FLOOR



FOURTH FLOOR

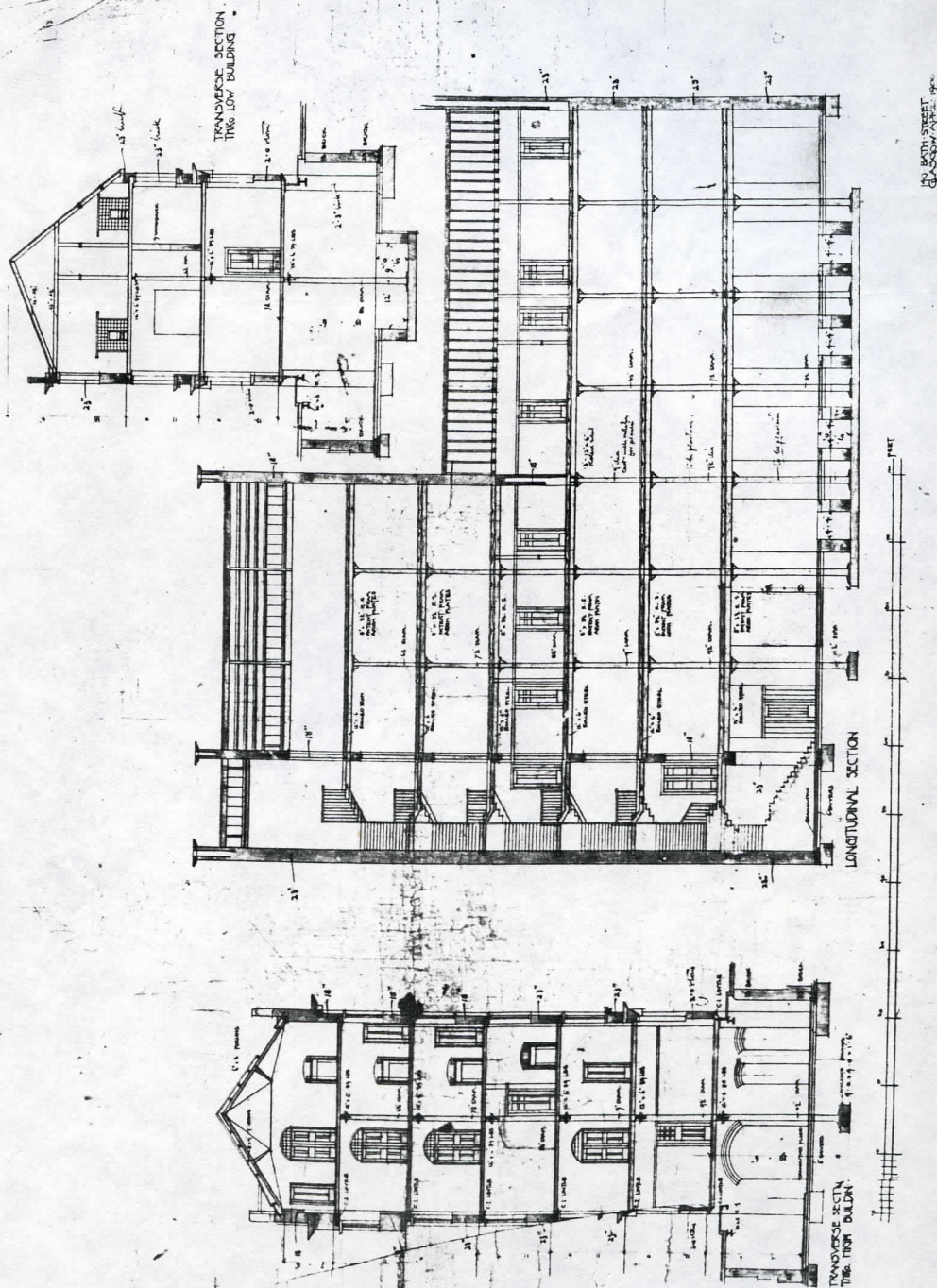


THIRD FLOOR

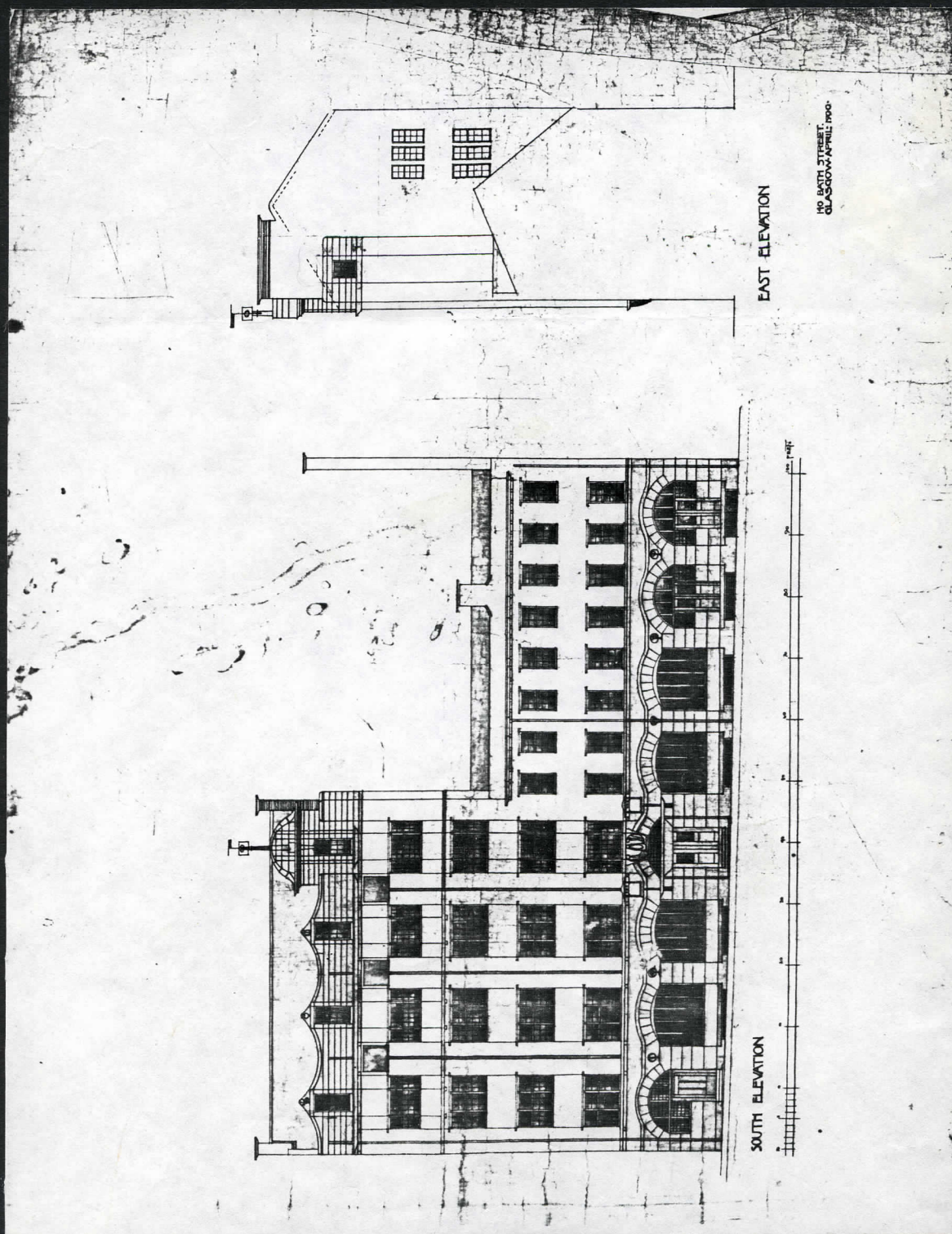


10, D'ALMEIDA STREET
GLASGOW APRIL 1900

Reduction of the original Mackintosh drawing
illustrating floor plans of upper four storeys
of Daily Record Building.

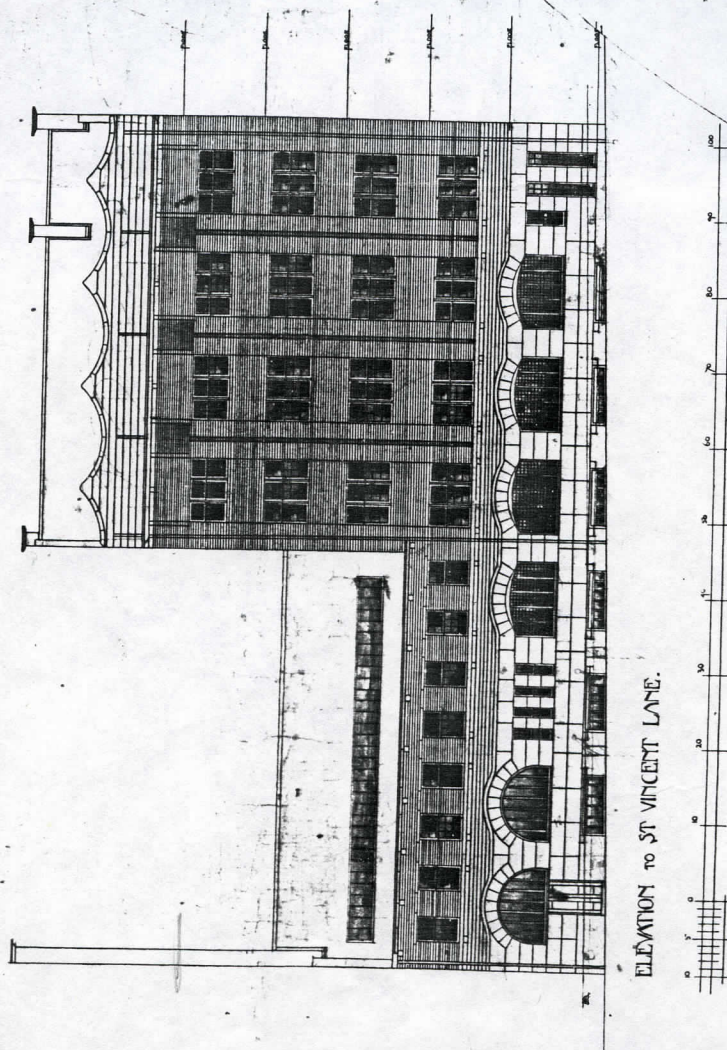


Reduction of the original Mackintosh drawing illustrating longitudinal and transverse sections of Daily Record Building.



Reduction of the original Mackintosh drawing illustrating Renfield Lane and gable elevations of Daily Record Building.

DAILY RECORD.
GLASGOW.



140 BATH STREET
GLASGOW, APRIL 1900

Reduction of original Mackintosh drawing illustrating
St Vincent Lane elevation of Daily Record Building.

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2. Conservation Dept of Planning Dept of Glasgow District Council.
3. Charles Rennie Mackintosh by David Walker. An article published in The Architectural Review of November 1968.
4. Further examples of glazed brick lane elevations can be found in West Regent Lane between Hope St and Renfield St. This building is the rear elevation of 55 West Regent St. With larger window openings than Mackintosh it also has cast iron mullions which divide the window opening into thirds and are of a similar design to Mackintosh. A cast iron lintel is also used but the sill is constructed of half round white glazed bricks.

The other example is to be found on the southern corner of Renfield Street and West George Lane. Again constructed out of white glazed bricks with the window openings slightly set back between vertically unbroken brick piers.

5. The Chicago buildings with the most similar proportion of windows are The Troescher Building 1884 by Adler and Sullivan which is currently known as the New Joint Board Building at 15 South Wacker Drive.

Another building also designed by Adler and Sullivan with similar proportions is the Meyer Building built in 1893 on the south west corner of Franklin Street and Van Buren Street.

6. Mackintosh and The Modern Movement by Howarth.

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